IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of using a printing device consumable, said method comprising

storing an identification key in a memory affixed to said printing device consumable,

receiving said identification key in a printing device and

accepting said printing device consumable for use in said printing device only if said identification key identifies a compatible printing device consumable,

wherein said accepting said printing device consumable comprises unlocking a locked locking mechanism that, when locked, disables either said printing device consumable or said printing device; and

further comprising uploading an identification interface from said memory to said memory of said printing device and receiving said identification key through said identification interface.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving comprises uploading said identification key from said memory to a memory of said printing device.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A method for verifying a printing device consumable, said method comprising:

storing an identification key on a printing device consumable memory;

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interfacing said memory with said printing device;

verifying said printing device consumable for use with said printing device based on said identification key; and

disengaging a locking mechanism that selectively disables said printing device upon verification of said identification key;

wherein said printing device periodically reengages said locking mechanism prior to re-verifying said identification key; and

further comprising reengaging said locking mechanism after a specific period of time after a previous verification of said printing device consumable.

5.   (original)   The method of claim 4, further comprising uploading said identification key from said memory to a printing device memory.

6.   (original)   The method of claim 5, further comprising verifying said identification key on said printing device.

7.   (original)   The method of claim 6, wherein said verifying said identification key comprises:

checking said identification key against a list of authorized keys for said printing device; and

enabling use of said printing device consumable by said printing device if said consumable is compatible with said printing device.

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8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising storing said list of authorized keys on said printing device memory.

9. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

uploading an identification interface from said memory to said printing device; and

accessing said identification key on said memory through said identification interface.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising verifying said identification key on said printing device.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said verifying said identification key comprises:

checking said identification key against a list of authorized keys for said printing device; and

enabling use of said printing device consumable by said printing device if said consumable is compatible with said printing device.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said printing device consumable is inoperable in said printing device until said identification key has been verified.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said consumable is locked with a locking mechanism and the method further comprising unlocking said locking mechanism after said identification key has been verified.

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14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said unlocking comprises receiving a control signal to unlock said locking mechanism from a printing device controller.

15-48. (cancelled)

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said locking mechanism comprises a mechanical locking mechanism and unlocking said locking mechanism comprises disengaging said mechanical locking mechanism.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said locking mechanism comprises an electronic locking mechanism and unlocking said locking mechanism comprises disabling said electronic locking mechanism.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said locking mechanism comprises a mechanical locking mechanism and disengaging said locking mechanism comprises physically disengaging said mechanical locking mechanism.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said locking mechanism comprises an electronic locking mechanism and disengaging said locking mechanism comprises disabling said electronic locking mechanism with a control signal.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising reengaging said locking mechanism whenever said printing device is powered up.

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54.   (currently amended)   A method for verifying a printing device consumable, said method comprising:

storing an identification key on a printing device consumable memory;

interfacing said memory with said printing device;

verifying said printing device consumable for use with said printing device based on said identification key; and

disengaging a locking mechanism that selectively disables said printing device upon verification of said identification key;

wherein said printing device periodically reengages said locking mechanism prior to re-verifying said identification key; and

~~The method of claim 4,~~ further comprising reengaging said locking mechanism whenever said printing device receives a new printing device consumable.

55.   (currently amended)   A method for verifying a printing device consumable, said method comprising:

storing an identification key on a printing device consumable memory;

interfacing said memory with said printing device;

verifying said printing device consumable for use with said printing device based on said identification key; and

disengaging a locking mechanism that selectively disables said printing device upon verification of said identification key;

wherein said printing device periodically reengages said locking mechanism prior to re-verifying said identification key; and

The method of claim 4, further comprising reengaging said locking mechanism whenever said printing device completes a print job.

56.   (currently amended)   A method for verifying a printing device consumable, said method comprising:

storing an identification key on a printing device consumable memory;

interfacing said memory with said printing device;

verifying said printing device consumable for use with said printing device based on said identification key; and

disengaging a locking mechanism that selectively disables said printing device upon verification of said identification key;

wherein said printing device periodically reengages said locking mechanism prior to re-verifying said identification key; and

The method of claim 4, further comprising reengaging said locking mechanism whenever said printing device has printed a specific number of pages

57.   (cancelled)

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